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65. Some American Museums.

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FIG. 3.

FIG. 4.

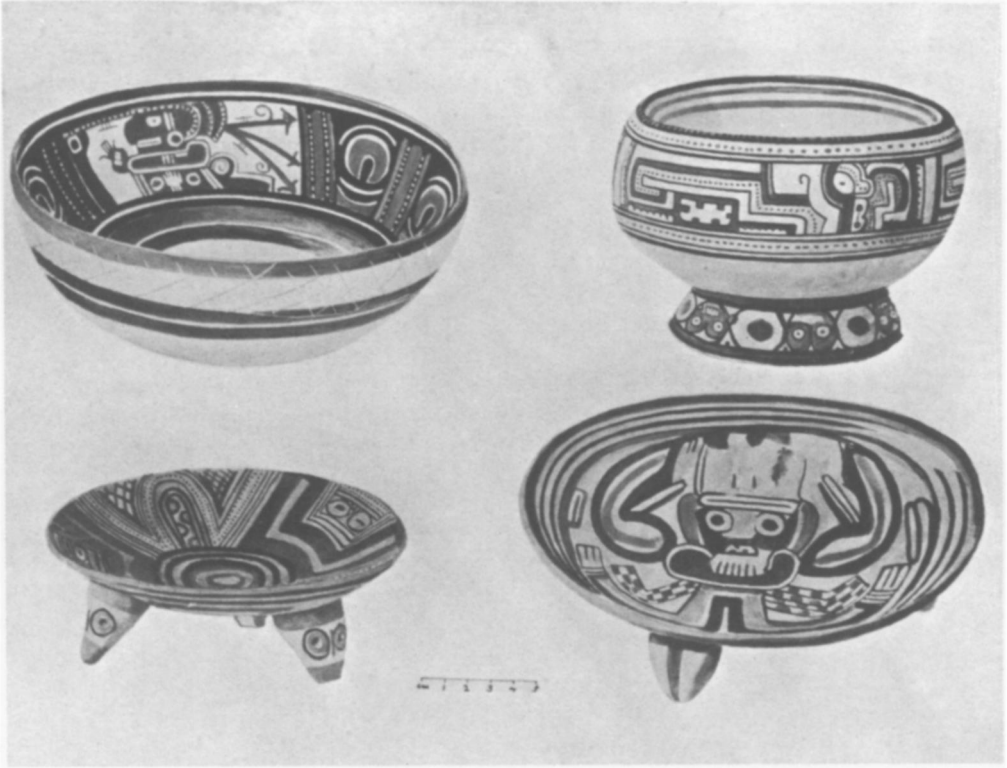


FIG. 5.

FIG. 6.



FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.

PAINTED POTTERY, COSTA RICA.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

America: Ethnology.

With Plate G.

Breton.

Some American Museums. *By Miss A. C. Breton.***65**

During the last twenty years the development of museums in America has been remarkable, both in the size and cost of the buildings and the interesting nature of the contents. An acquaintance with them is essential for those who desire a comprehensive understanding of ethnology and archæology, and of America as related to the rest of the world. They have good libraries, to which access is readily permitted, and the officials usually spend part of the year in field work so that information at first hand can be gained from them. Each man has a private office with ample room for books and specimens.

In the enormous halls and galleries of the *New York Natural History Museum* everything pertaining to the native peoples of the north-west and the Pacific coast is displayed, and the whole course of their lives can be studied in the many objects, garments, utensils, weapons, and implements of all kinds, mostly brought back by the Jessup Expedition. On an upper floor is the magnificent Mexican Hall. Here are casts of several of the great portrait stelæ at Copan and Quirigua, some of the altars, the Quirigua turtle (a marvel of ancient sculpture), and many of the warriors of the Chichen Itza reliefs. Most of them were presented by the Duc de Loubat, copies of those made by Mr. A. Maudslay, which have been lying neglected for so many years at South Kensington. In the ample space and fine lighting from both sides in the hall the regal figures of the stelæ have almost their original outdoor effect, and in default of the original brilliant tints they have been coloured a brownish grey, which throws the elaborate details into good light and shade.

The skill of ancient Mexican goldsmiths is well shown in some exquisite little gold objects, chiefly birds and animals. There are good representative groups of clay figures from the different districts of Mexico, especially one, life size, brought by Professor Saville from Tezcoco, and stone and obsidian implements and masks are in abundance.

Mr. Stewart Culin reigns at the *Brooklyn Institute*, an imposing edifice on a height reached by Flatbush Avenue cars from Brooklyn Town Hall. He has made an unusually fine collection from Japan of ceremonial robes and armour, musical instruments, and the curious long cylindrical beads of greenish stone which are found in ancient burial mounds there. The main feature of the museum is the illustration of the ethnology of the western United States, especially the Navajo, Zuni, and Californian Indians. Typical landscapes on the walls, photographs, and printed descriptions help to give the visitor a real glimpse of these phases of a different civilisation. Zuni shrines and dance-masks, dolls used in the dances, drums made with a large pottery jar and a piece of skin strained over the top, stone implements, and pottery found by Mr. Culin three years ago in the Canyon de Chelly, when he also brought away Mrs. Day's wonderful collection of arrow points and some of the exquisite feather-covered Californian baskets, are some of the things that linger in the memory of a too brief visit.

The *Peabody Museum of Harvard College* at Cambridge is famous for its Central American department, the result of expeditions financed by friends of Professor F. W. Putnam, who has devoted so many years to American archæology. It is almost the only place where, in addition to casts of the large sculptures, the lesser details of the highly-developed Maya art can be studied in the beautiful heads and other fragments from Copan, and the varieties of painted pottery from the deposits in the banks of the Ulua River. Then it has facsimile copies to quarter scale of the ancient wall-paintings at Chichen Itza, the most remarkable presentment of battle scenes yet

known. The museum is also very rich in the archæology of the northern United States and the Ohio mounds. It trains students by lectures and field work, and its publications are of great value.

Yale University Museum at Newhaven, Connecticut, is cramped for room and some of its best things cannot be exhibited, notably the painted vases from Chiriqui, on which Dr. G. MacCurdy is writing a monograph, and many of the gold-plated copper objects also from Chiriqui; but the gallery contains much of interest. Part of a neolithic shell-heap with stone implements and fragments of pottery, some other primitive remains from New England, and two of the shell disks or gorgets with incised figures from the south, are among the more important possessions.

At Philadelphia the *Academy of Sciences* has Mr. Clarence Moore's great collection of pots from the burial-mounds of Georgia and Florida, which his careful methods of excavation, and record in many volumes, have made so valuable, and there are also particularly well-arranged and labelled cases of the infinite variety of small Mexican clay figures, heads, and other objects. The *Museum of the University of Pennsylvania* at West Philadelphia has several fine ethnological series, especially from the hill tribes of Assam (with photographs), from Borneo and other parts of the Pacific, and of boomerangs, wummerahs, and shields from Australia. There are also the results of the excavations at Nippur made by Dr. Hilprecht, and Dr. Randall MacIver's great Egyptian finds from five years' work, which cost £10,000. The three feet long necklace of alternate amethyst and gold beads and other treasures were unfortunately stolen last February. Mr. G. Heye's immense collection illustrating the Plains Indians is now there, and also represents a very great expenditure of time and money. The sense of colour and harmony in those Indians must be strongly developed, judging from the many beautiful things wrought in feathers, beads, or woven. The mocassins are particularly interesting as each tribe has its own variety. But knowledge of the meaning of the designs has been lost. One gallery is filled with Californian baskets of many styles, some of them covered with minute feathers of different colours arranged in patterns.

A revelation to the antiquarian has been the setting up and colouring (after the original) of the central part of the carved interior wall of Chamber E, at Chichen Itza, copied from the Maudslay cast. A similar cast in the New York Museum was coloured by an artist who had not seen the original, and another at Chicago is also unsatisfactory, but this one, well placed and lighted, gives a fair impression of the rows of warriors in relief, all richly clothed, with many ornaments and bearing weapons, and is worthy of prolonged study.

The new *National Museum at Washington* is a splendid building, which has cost 3,500,000 dollars. Under Dr. W. H. Holmes's care it will become a treasure house of American archæology and ethnology, whilst for the student of somatology there is a most important mass of material. This includes 2,500 skulls and bones belonging to a large number of bodies, recently collected from ransacked ancient cemeteries at Pachacamac, near Lima, Peru, for Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, who will be glad to give every facility to anyone desiring to specialise in these subjects.

Besides the usual casts of Mexican and Central American sculptures, Dr. Holmes has had executed some exquisite models of the principal buildings. That of the House of the Governor at Uxmal shows the complex details, so that the beauty and significance of the designs can be appreciated better than in the original seen in the glare and heat of Yucatan. In another gallery there are the life-size groups of Indians so popular in American museums, and teaching more vividly than any quantity of things in cases, as they are arranged to show the people in their various occupations, such as flaking stone implements, with the cores and heaps of rejects—all genuine. This museum has always received with pleasure (and an official letter

of acknowledgment) every sort of ancient American object sent by the humble amateur, so that it has a vast accumulation which would otherwise have been lost to science.

A voyage of $6\frac{1}{2}$ days from New Orleans in one of the United Fruit Company's good steamers brings one to Puerto Limon, Costa Rica, from whence San José, the



FIG. 7.—PAINTED POTTERY WITH FIGURES IN RELIEF, COSTA RICA.

capital, is reached by train in seven hours. The *National Museum* in that charming town is of the greatest interest. Although there is an absence in Costa Rica of the wonderful ancient structures of Guatemala and Honduras, and only foundations of buildings and some small mounds have been discovered, the wealth of objects in

prehistoric graves is phenomenal. The gilt-copper ornaments, strangely enough never yet found *in situ* by a foreigner, are said by the Bishop of Costa Rica (who is a good antiquarian) to be frequently forgeries, but many are undoubtedly genuine. Two men brought a number, weighing about 1 lb., while the writer was in San José, and said they were the result of five weeks' search. This was from El General towards the Chiriqui district, and the objects were of that character. They are well represented in the museum, but its chief glories are the painted pottery and the figure-celts. Of the former there is every possible variety, from the plain Neolithic pots, some with incised designs, to the latest elaborate style with figures in relief.

The two large pots in Plate G are particularly fine in technical treatment, and also in the design and colour. Fig. 1 has the design incised in three divisions on a white slip and tints of blue, black, and a bright orange (which shows black in the print) are used in addition. A broad orange band goes round the inner edge of the pot. Fig. 2 is of much heavier make, highly burnished, and broadly painted with black and a glowing orange colour. Figs. 3 to 6 are painted in black, red, and yellow on a creamy ground, Fig. 3 having an incised hatching of lines outside. Amongst the more frequent motives are the dragon-jaw conventionalised, two eyes (as in Figs. 3 and 4), a curious beast with a proboscis snout, and jars with outstanding head, arms, and legs, of semi-human creatures, as shown in Fig. 7. Many months might be spent in copying and studying the thousand different designs. Dr. Walter Lehmann has done something towards this. The argillite and jadeite celts are like precious stones in their beauty of veining, colour, and polish. These are chiefly from Nicoya, near the frontier of Nicaragua. The large metates (or seats?) of vesicular volcanic stone have interlaced designs similar to the early Celtic. Round stools or small altars have rows of sculptured heads. All these things are worked with refined taste of a high order. Some Zulu spears and shields are also in this museum.

In the episcopal palace there is a fine collection, chiefly made by the late bishop and added to by the present one (who often walks eight hours a day in going about his diocese), of similar Costa Rica antiquities, especially jadeite objects.

A. C. BRETON.

Australia.

Mathews.

Matrilineal Descent in the Kaiabara Tribe, Queensland. By **66**
R. H. Mathews, L.S.

I have read an article by Mr. Lang in MAN, 1910, No. 80, in which he offers some interesting conclusions respecting the Kaiabara tribe in South Queensland, at which he has arrived from perusal of the late Mr. A. W. Howitt's book. As I have made some personal investigations among several of the old natives of the tribe mentioned as to their initiation ceremonies and sociology during the past fifteen years, I am desirous of submitting a few remarks on their marriage laws.

Mr. Howitt had never been among the Kaiabara blacks himself, but, relying upon a correspondent who was evidently not qualified for the task, he reported that descent was counted through the father. The whole cause of this trouble arose from misapprehending which pair of sub-classes (or sections) formed a phratry. In order to place the matter before the reader it will be necessary for me to repeat Mr. Howitt's table; a course also followed by Mr. Lang.

TABLE A. (MR. HOWITT, 1884 and 1904).

PHRATRY.		HUSBAND.	WIFE.	OFFSPRING.
Kubatine	-	{ Bulkoin.	Turowain.	Bunda.
		{ Bunda.	Baring.	Bulkoin.
Dilebi	-	{ Baring.	Bunda.	Turowain.
		{ Turowain.	Bulkoin.	Baring.